



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 348

February Session, 2018

Substitute House Bill No. 5149

House of Representatives, April 10, 2018

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. STEINBERG of the 136th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING SOBER LIVING HOMES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2018*) (a) As used in this
2 section, "sober living home" means an alcohol-free and drug-free
3 residence where (1) unrelated adults who are recovering from a
4 substance use disorder choose to live together in a supportive
5 environment during their recovery, and (2) no formal substance use
6 disorder treatment services are provided.

7 (b) A sober living home that is certified as a recovery residence by
8 an affiliate of the National Alliance for Recovery Residences, or a
9 successor organization, may report its certified status to the
10 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. A sober living
11 home that reports its certified status to the department shall provide
12 the department with the number of beds available in the sober living
13 home at the time of its report and upon request of the department. The
14 department shall post on its Internet web site a list of the sober living
15 homes that have reported their certified status pursuant to this section

16 and the number of beds available at each such sober living home. The
17 department shall update the list of sober living homes and the bed
18 availability at each sober living home on a daily basis.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	New section
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Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Subsec. (b), the first sentence was reworded for accuracy and clarity.

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill requires the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to electronically post a list of the sober homes that have chosen to report their certified status and the number of beds available at the home to the department. This is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact as the agency currently has the ability to meet the requirements of the bill.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5149*****AN ACT CONCERNING SOBER LIVING HOMES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill permits a sober living home certified by an affiliate of the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (see BACKGROUND), or a successor organization, to report its certified status to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). A home that does so must also provide DMHAS with the number of available beds it has at the time of its report and upon the department's request.

The bill also requires DMHAS to post on its website a list of these certified sober living homes as well as the number of available beds at each home. The department must update this information daily.

Under the bill, a "sober living home" is an alcohol- and drug-free residence where (1) unrelated adults who are recovering from substance use disorders choose to live together in a supportive environment during their recovery and (2) no formal substance use disorder treatment services are provided.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2018

BACKGROUND***National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR)***

NARR is a nonprofit and recovery community organization founded in 2011 that supports people in substance abuse recovery by improving their access to quality recovery residences (i.e., sober living homes). In 2011, NARR established national standards for recovery residences that categorize four types of housing and services (e.g., levels of support). The most recent standards were released in 2015.

NARR does not certify recovery residences directly. However, it licenses its national certification program to affiliate organizations that provide such certification.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 26 Nay 0 (03/26/2018)